

Appl. No. 09/408,943
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 4 December 2003

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REMARKS

Claims 1-14 and 17-22 are pending in this application.

The applicant respectfully requests the admittance of this amendment, to place the claims in a better condition for allowance or appeal. The applicant respectfully notes that this amendment adds no new matter, and does not require an additional search, because the amended independent claims 1 and 13 substantially correspond to former dependent claims 4, 15, and 16, which had been examined in the prior Office actions, and are cancelled herein.

The Office action rejects claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claims 6 and 12 (and presumably claim 22) under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yokoyama (USP 6,547,400). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In each of the independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 17, the applicant specifically claims the production of light *bars* corresponding to an image signal.

Yokoyama is silent with regard to the creation of light bars. Yokoyama's illustration of dispersed light rays within Yokoyama's light guide blocks 10, 102 in FIGs. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, and 14, and Yokoyama's purposeful use of a reflective surfaces 11 within the guide block 10, makes it apparent that Yokoyama's design would not be suitable for producing light *bars*. The applicant respectfully maintains that Yokoyama's multi-colored system as illustrated in FIGs. 13 and 14 are designed to sequentially flash each of the colors, as a "full screen" flash. As illustrated by the light ray patterns of FIG. 14, the light-emitting diodes and the light guide block 102 are configured such that the light from each light-emitting diode is dispersed to cover the entire LCD panel 101.

Because Yokoyama is silent with regard to the creation of light bars in dependence upon an image signal, as specifically claimed by the applicant, and because Yokoyama's illustrated structures are incompatible with the production of light bars, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), and claims 6, 12, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yokoyama.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the present application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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